Mental Health Screening and Evaluation

713.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the process by which all inmates receive an initial mental health screening by qualified mental health staff using an instrument developed by qualified health care professionals. The initial mental health screening takes place at the time of booking, and is for the safety of the inmate and the general population. It helps the custody staff to make appropriate classification and housing decisions and to ensure that the treatment and intervention needs of the inmate are met.

713.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office that all individuals booked into the facility shall receive an initial mental health screening by a qualified mental health professional or qualified mental health staff. A more comprehensive medical appraisal shall be conducted within the first 14 days of incarceration to confirm the initial findings and to ensure that, if needed, an appropriate treatment plan that meets the individual needs of the inmate is in place.

713.3 MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING

The initial screening is designed to identify whether mental health conditions exist that require immediate or ongoing intervention. The screening shall be performed prior to the inmate being placed in general housing and should include:

(a) Inquiry into whether the inmate is or has:

1. Thoughts or history of suicidal behavior.
2. Been prescribed or is taking any psychotropic medication or antidepressants.
3. Being treated for mental health issues.
4. A history of psychiatric treatment.
5. A history of substance abuse or been treated for substance abuse.

(b) Any observation of:

1. Appearance and behavior.
2. Abuse, injury or trauma.
3. Symptoms of aggression, depression or psychosis.

(c) A determination of whether the inmate is cleared for or referred to:

1. General housing.
2. General housing with mental health referral.
3. Mental health emergency treatment.

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This information shall be recorded on the medical screening form. It will become part of the inmate's health record and be retained in accordance with established records retention schedules.

713.4 MENTAL HEALTH APPRAISAL

All new inmates shall receive a mental health appraisal by a qualified mental health professional within 14 days, unless documentation exists that an appraisal has been completed within the previous 90 days. Mental health appraisals should include, but not necessarily be limited to the following assessments:

- Mental health status
- Suicide potential
- Violence potential
- Previous psychiatric treatment
- Any history of treatment with psychotropic medication or antidepressants
- Substance abuse or treatment for substance abuse
- Educational history
- Sexual abuse victimization (28 CFR 115.81)
- Predatory behavior or perpetrated sexual abuse (28 CFR 115.81)

Following the appraisal, the qualified mental health professional shall develop a treatment plan for the inmate and make recommendations regarding the inmate's housing, job assignment and program participation.

713.5 MENTAL HEALTH REFERRALS

Qualified mental health staff should administer a complete and thorough evaluation of inmates referred for treatment as soon as practicable, but no later than 14 days from the referral. The evaluation should include:

- Review of the inmate's screening and appraisal information.
- Observations of the inmate's behavior.
- Information gathered from interviews and testing to determine the inmate's mental health condition, intellect, personality, problems and ability to deal with a custody environment.
- Collection of the inmate's mental health history.

Following the evaluation, a plan of treatment and maintenance, which may include a complete psychological evaluation, should be developed to meet the inmate's needs.

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